

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) No, sir.

(c) As per experts and available information, the therapeutic use of Viagra in diabetic patients has not been established for routine clinical use.

Conflicting estimates about AIDS

3484. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the conflicting estimates regarding the number of AIDS/HIV patients in India by some foreign agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many agencies, including UN agencies, are collecting data about AIDS;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps to regulate the working of NGOs and foreign agencies working in this area; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) Yes, sir. However, the estimates of HIV infections by some foreign agencies are based on the nation wide sentinel surveillance report undertaken annually by the Government. But the number of deaths quoted in the report are mere projections and Government, therefore, does not agree with the report on number of deaths.

(c) The National AIDS Control Organisation, Government of India is the only agency collecting data through annual sentinel surveillance on HIV infection.

(d) and (e) Yes, sir. Government has formulated guidelines for the involvement of NGOs. The involvement of UN and bilateral agencies is subject to the approval of the Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India.

Education Programme for AIDS Awareness

3485. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of Government spending incalculable

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amount of money and time on research to find a cure for the killer disease, AIDS, no break-through has been made so far;

(b) whether under the circumstances, AIDS prevention education programme could go a long way in the fight against this killer disease;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken steps towards education programme by creating awareness among the public; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) No, sir. However, the Government is encouraging research in the field of HIV/AIDS including Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy.

(b) Yes, sir.

(c) and (d) A comprehensive awareness campaign is being pursued by NACO to prevent/reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS. This comprises of telecasting of regular TB spots and programmes on radio. Use of print media is also made for this purpose. On special occasions, such as World AIDS Day, World Health Day and National Blood Donation Day, multimedia campaigns are carried out throughout the country. Directorate of Field Publicity and Song and Drama Division is also being utilised for folk media programme on HIV/AIDS.

Targeted Intervention programmes have also been taken up to reduce the rate of transmission of HIV/AIDS among the most vulnerable and marginalised population and to create awareness among them. Apart from this, Family Health Awareness Campaigns are also being observed throughout the country from time to time for creating awareness among the general population.

ACP Scheme for CGHS Pharmacists

3486. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI:

SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: SHRIMATI

BASANTISARMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assured Career Progression 1st and 2nd is granted to CGHS Pharmacists of Ayurvedic, Homoeopathic and Unani systems of Medicine, on